



# WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF THE A. F. of L., BY INSTRUCTION OF ST. LOUIS CONVENTION, DIRECTED THE OFFICERS AT HEADQUARTERS TO FURNISH A WEEKLY NEWS LETTER, FREE OF COST, TO ALL OFFICIAL LABOR PUBLICATIONS.

Containing a brief summary of important matters, affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will further the development and progress of the trade union movement.

## AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

HEADQUARTERS

801-809 G ST. N. W., WASHINGTON, D. C.

FRANK MORRISON, SECRETARY

SAMUEL GOMPERS, PRESIDENT

No. 56.

### ANTHRACITE COAL SITUATION

Washington, April 27.--The situation in the anthracite coal region looks promising for a settlement. No authentic statement has yet been given to the public, but it is understood that an advance of 5.26% has been offered by the operators to the miners. Under the old sliding scale plan the miners were paid 1¢ per ton in addition to their regular scale out of each 5¢ per ton that coal sold for above \$4.50 at tidewater. It appears that the operators are now demanding that the sliding scale be not applied under a price of \$4.75 per ton. The per cent increase stated to have been offered by the anthracite operators is similar to that accepted by the bituminous miners in the central competitive district. The outlook appears favorable for a settlement, although as stated, the sub-committee having negotiations in hand has been extremely reticent in giving out any information.

### LOCOMOTIVE ENGINEERS' SITUATION

Washington, April 27.--The controversy existing between the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and the eastern railways involving a wage increase, appears to have arrived at a critical stage. United States Labor Commissioner Charles P. Neill, and Judge Martin J. Knapp of the United States Commerce court are endeavoring to mediate between the two forces, and it is understood that the railways have agreed to take under consideration the suggestions offered by the two gentlemen mentioned. It is reported that the railroads prefer to submit the entire matter to an arbitration board rather than to accept mediation. Conferences have been arranged for and it is hoped that some basis can be arrived at upon which to perfect an amicable adjustment of the controversy.

### FULL CREW LAW UPHOLD

Harrisburg, Pa., April 27.--The full crew bill, which was passed by the last legislature, has been upheld in its entirety by a percuriam decision of the Dauphin County court. The court holds that the act is not unconstitutional, but a proper exercise of the police power of the state. The court followed the lines of the decisions of the courts of Arkansas and Indiana, these decisions having been upheld by the Supreme Court of the United States.

## AMENDING POSTOFFICE BILL

Washington, April 27.--Congress Murdock of Kansas has offered an amendment to the postoffice appropriation bill providing that "magazines, periodicals and other regularly issued publications in raised characters for the use of the blind, which contain no advertisements and for which no subscription fee is charged, shall be transmitted in the United States mails free of postage." Another amendment was also introduced by Congressman Dodds of Michigan, providing in part, that periodical publications issued under the auspices of a benevolent or fraternal society or order organized under the lodge system, and having a bona fide membership of not less than 1,000 persons, or by or under the auspices of a trade union shall be admitted to the mails as second class matter and the postage thereon to be the same as on other second class matter, with the provision that such periodical publications being permitted to carry advertising matter must not be designed or published primarily for advertising purposes. It is also provided that these publications shall be limited to copies mailed to members, exchanges and bona fide subscribers together with 10% of such circulation in addition as sample copies. It is further provided that the publications referred to must appear at least four times a year.

## GOVERNMENT NEGLIGENCE

Washington, April 27.--The senatorial investigation into the matter of the Titanic catastrophe has brought out the fact that government transport are no better equipped with life saving apparatus than was the Titanic. A Washington paper gives the following schedule which is interesting:

Capacity in		Lifeboat	Capacity in		Lifeboat
Transport	passengers and crew		Transport	passengers and crew	
Sheridan.....	1,897.....	736...	Kilpatrick.....	1,156.....	463...
Sherman.....	1,879.....	736...	Bufoia.....	1,156.....	463...
Logan.....	1,875.....	750...	Meade.....	1,300.....	500...
Thomas.....	1,889.....	756...	Crook.....	1,653.....	420...

It is understood that the navy department proposes to immediately correct this condition of affairs and equip all government vessels with adequate safeguards in order that the passengers and crew on all vessels will be protected in case of accident.

## JOIN INTERNATIONAL LONGSHOREMEN

Boston, April 27.--The O'Connell Assembly, a Knights of Labor organization of Boston, of over 900 members, has transferred its affiliation to the International Longshoremen's Association, A. F. of L. The Provident Longshoremen's union of Boston, an independent organization since 1847, with a membership of over 500, has also applied to the International Association of Longshoremen for a charter.

## LATHERS WIN

Chicago, April 27.--The Lathers union, which has been on strike in this city, has effected a compromise based upon a substantial increase, and an agreement has been signed with the Contractors' Association and all men have returned to work.

## TRADE UNIONS AND THE LAW

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London, April 27.--Reynolds newspaper says: "The importance of recent law cases in which trade union funds have been involved is not escaping the attention of the higher trade union organizations, and steps are being taken to cope with the situation. Instruction classes in trade union law are to be held in London, and later at all the chief towns, at which executive and branch officials of trade unions will attend. The first lecture is entitled, 'The attitude of English law Toward Trade Unionism,' and will be in the nature of a general historic survey of the varying attitude of the law officers to trade unions during the last century. The Parliamentary Committee of the trade union congress and representatives of all the trade union, will also hold a conference simultaneously to this meeting to consider the position arising out of the Trades Dispute Act and the Osborne judgment. The position of the trade union members of the labor party who expect their organization to provide the expenses incidental to holding a seat in Parliament, has been rendered very precarious indeed by the Osborne judgment. The failure of the government to pass a satisfactory amending act has intensified a serious situation which has grown out of the failure of the voluntary Parliamentary levies instituted by unions to enable them to meet the organizing and registration expenses of holding constituencies. For instance, the Amalgamated Society of Engineers has overdrawn its account on this voluntary fund by \$5,000, and its members are warned in a recent report that unless funds are soon forthcoming the seats held by George Barnes, M. P., and Charles Duncan, M. P., will have to be relinquished."

## POSTAL SERVANTS' GRIEVANCES

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London, April 27.--Great satisfaction is felt by postal workers at the statement made by Herbert Samuel, the postmaster-general, at a dinner given by the Postal Clerks' Association. He stated that the select committee to consider the wages and general conditions of postal servants would be appointed immediately. The grievances of postal workers are very numerous, as there are so many grades of workers and such a difference in rates of pay. Steps are also being taken to amalgamate the organizations in the postal service in order that a common policy may be pursued by employees in the various departments of the postal service.

## PASS IMMIGRATION BILL

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Washington, April 27.--The Senate, on Friday, April 19, passed the immigration bill which imposes the educational test and otherwise provides for restrictive immigration. The head tax was increased from \$4 to \$5. An exception is made in the case of "all aliens who shall prove to the satisfaction of the proper immigration officer or to the secretary of commerce and labor that they are seeking admission to the United States solely for the purpose of escaping from religious persecution." This bill follows very closely the lines of the house bill.

## BUILDING LABORERS ON STRIKE

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Montclair, N. J., April 27.--The Hod Carriers and Building Laborers of this city are on strike for an eight hour day, with indications that the contest will be of short duration.

## LEGIEN SPEAKS BEFORE HOUSE

Washington, April 27.--Carl Legien, who is now making a speaking tour of the United States under the auspices of the American Federation of Labor delivered a short speech before the members of the lower house in congress on Saturday April 20. Chairman W. B. Wilson of the labor committee, made the motion for a recess in order that Mr. Legien might address the house, the usual custom being followed in the motion. The following is Mr. Legien's address, which was delivered in German and translated by his secretary, Mr. Baumiester: "Permit me to state that the organized workers do not only stand for progress in their respective countries, but also are the strongest advocates of peace among nations. Our party in the German reichstag has often brought pressure upon the government to avert war by getting into friendly communication with our neighboring countries. Our party has consistently opposed the policy of increasing armaments. The labor movement the world over aims to bring about universal peace instead of allowing nations to rival with each other in securing the latest weapons to murder each other. Our labor movement has for years furthered legislation for the protection of workers, education, and the general uplift of humanity. We are full of hope when we note that the same efforts are being directed in every civilized land. Such legislation fosters good will and peace among nations, and will make it possible for the human race to achieve the highest state of civilization. Again, I thank you." At the banquet tendered Mr. Legien on the evening of the 18th by the Central Labor Union of Washington he was presented with a gold watch as a memento of his visit in the capital city.

## CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES INCLUDED

Washington, April 27.--The judiciary committee has favorably reported a bill granting to the civilian employees of the United States the right to receive compensation for injuries sustained in the course of their employment. The bill recites that the United States shall be liable to its civilian employees whose compensation is, or probable earnings are less than at the rate of \$3,000 per annum, including as well those employed under the Isthmian Canal Commission and by the Panama railroad and steamship line, for an injury or death by accident arising out of or in the course of the injured person's employment.

## BUY AUTOMOBILE

Cleveland, O., April 27.--Local Union #38 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, owing to its rapidly increasing membership and consequent increase in duties of the business agent, has authorized the purchase of an automobile for its business agent and officers to facilitate the work of the organization.

## CARMEN GROWING

Kansas City, Mo., April 27.--The Brotherhood of Railway Carmen has just organized two local unions, one at Smiths Falls, Ontario, Canada, and Minneapolis, Minn. This organization is also assisting to the limit of its resources the striking carmen on the Harriman system, the Illinois Central and M. K. T.

## UNITED ASSOCIATION ITEMS

Chicago, April 27.--The United Association of Plumbers of this city has just signed up a biennial agreement carrying with it an increase in wages from \$5.50 to \$6.00 per day, to become effective July 1. This local union of plumbers No. 130, is the largest in the country, having 1,900 members, all paid three months in advance. The gas fitters, members of local No. 250, also receive the same increase as referred to above. The Sprinkler fitters and helpers' local union has also secured an increase as well as the local union of steam fitters and helpers. The United Association has made phenomenal progress in the last year, in fact, greater than ever before in its history. The average wage now being paid to the members of the 569 local unions distributed throughout the United States and Canada is approximately \$5 per day, which is an increase of \$1.80 per day per member since the year 1905, at which time the average wage was \$3.20. All local unions of the United Association have the eight hour day and over two-thirds are enjoying the Saturday half holiday.

## BOYCOTT UNION MUSICIANS

St. Louis, Mo., April 27.--Secretary Owen Miller of the American Federation of Musicians is authority for the statement that the colonel of the infantry company of the state militia stationed in this city has instituted an official boycott against the union musicians of St. Louis by refusing to rent the armory hall to parties employing union musicians. The Central Trades and Labor Union took the matter up and an investigation developed that the armory is owned by private individuals, but on the supposition that it was public property no taxes have been levied against the real estate. It was found that the state appropriates \$50,000 per year for the maintenance of this armory and the city about \$10,000 more, the government furnishing the other accessories. Organized labor is aroused at this condition of affairs.

## CCREROOM BILL REPORTED

Boston, April 27.--The famous cokerroom bill, the measure that is intended to put a stop to the slavery of women in foundries, has been favorably reported by the committee on labor of the legislature. It has been desperately fought by concerns now employing women in their iron foundries. The bill provides rules relating to the structure and location of rooms, the emission of fumes and gases from ovens, and the weight women shall be allowed to lift. It is also provided that the state inspectors of health shall enforce any rules made in accordance with the provisions of the act, and a penalty of not less than \$25 and not more than \$500 is provided for violations.

## INQUIRY ON COST OF LIVING

Washington, April 27.--The senate has passed a bill providing for an international investigation of the causes and remedies of the high cost of living. The bill authorizes the president to invite foreign governments to participate in a conference to promote an inquiry into this subject throughout the world, and provides for the participation of the United States in the investigation.

## MINERS ON STRIKE

Charleston, W. Va., April 27.--The Miners of district No. 17, United Mine Workers of America, comprising the Kanawha Valley, W. Va., which includes 10,000 miners, have gone on strike. The miners asked for the same amount of increase in wages as was determined upon at the recent Cleveland conference, and ratified by the miners in the central competitive states, also demanding the checkoff system. The operators apparently desire to try conclusions with the miners and have refused to make any compromise agreement. A long hard struggle seems to be imminent.

## STRIKE PROGRESSING

Utica, April 27.--The strike in the New York mills of 5,000 cotton workers is being continued with unabated vigor, notwithstanding that the manufacturers are endeavoring in every way to intimidate the strikers. No desertions have occurred and great sacrifices are being made by those who are unemployed on account of the contest. The Knitters of Utica are also on strike for the reinstatement of the president of their union and against the blacklisting by employers of workmen in the knitting industry.

## JACKSONVILLE NEWS

Jacksonville, Fla., April 27.--The Trades Council is championing a bill before the city council for an eight hour day for all city employees, with good prospects of being successful. The officials of the State Federation of Labor have sent out a list of questions to every candidate aspiring for a state office, and practically all have answered as favorable to the measures advocated by organized labor. Organizer Terry of the A. F. of L. has recently secured charters for Longshoremen, Electrical Workers and Hod Carriers.

## ELECTION OF SENATORS

Boston, April 27.--The upper branch of the Massachusetts state legislature has adopted a resolution favoring the election of United States senators by direct vote of the people. The house has substituted an adverse report of the committee on election laws, and provides for the placing on the official ballot the names of candidates for the United States senate.

## FIFTY-FOUR HOUR BILL SIGNED

Albany, April 27.--Governor Dix has signed the fifty-four hour bill for women and children employed in factories and manufacturing establishments in the state of New York. The securing of the shorter work-week is directly attributable to the activities of the State Federation of Labor and the United Textile Workers.

## PUBLICITY FAVORED

Washington, April 27.--The house of representatives has given its endorsement to a proposition to compel newspapers to publish the names of editorial writers and stockholders. This rule provides that these matters shall be pertinent to the debate on the postoffice appropriation bill.



## INJUNCTION BILL ON CALENDAR

Washington, April 27.--As reported in last week's letter, the injunction limitation bill, H. R. 23189, has been reported from the committee on labor by Chairman Wilson and placed upon the house calendar. This is labor's bill to make lawful certain agreements between employers and laborers and persons engaged in agriculture and horticulture and to limit the issuing of injunctions in certain cases and for other purposes. The report number is 568, which is favorable to the passage of the bill.

## DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Washington, April 27.--Congressman Wilson, chairman of the house committee on labor, and leader of the labor group, reported to the house on Saturday, April 20, H. R. 22913, to create a department of labor, with amendments, accompanied by a favorable report, No. 575, and the bill and report were referred to the committee of the whole house on the state of the union. It is thought this bill will be favorably acted upon by the house before the adjournment of the present session.

## TO VOTE ON COMPENSATION BILL

Washington, April 27.--The senate has come to an agreement to vote on the workmen's compensation bill on May 2. Senator Overman of North Carolina gave notice that he would interpose a motion to postpone it until next December.

## FOR FIREMEN'S PENSIONS

Washington, April 27.--Congressman Cary of Wisconsin, a member of the house District of Columbia committee, has introduced a bill creating a firemen's relief and pension fund in the District of Columbia.

## STOVEMAKERS ON STRIKE

Nashville, April 27.--About 200 molders in two large stove manufacturing concerns are out on strike. A number of men have been victimized and the organization demands their reinstatement.

## PRINTERS GET INCREASE

Utica, N. Y., April 27.--The members of the Typographical Union of Utica have secured an increase in wages of \$3.00 per week. Day men receive \$22 and night men \$25.

## MILLS CONCEDE ADVANCE

Aberdeen, Wash., April 27.--Paying a minimum wage of \$2.25 per day, an advance from \$2.00 per day for unskilled labor, all the mills of Gray's Harbor, this state, have resumed work.

## GIRLS ON STRIKE

London, April 27.--Two hundred girls employed in a mineral water establishment at Waltham Cross are on strike and the plant is closed down.

## LONDON TAILORS

London, April 27.--The Amalgamated Society of Tailors and Tailoresses is conducting a vigorous organizing campaign and also one to force a recognition of the "log", or scale of piece prices, which was agreed upon some years ago. The efforts to organize 25,000 Jewish workers in the east end of London is progressing successfully, and an amalgamation of the English and Jewish tailoring unions is already practically completed.

## MAY PROBE RAILROAD WRECKS

Washington, April 27.--A federal commission to investigate the cost of railroad wrecks and other accidents is provided for in a bill which Congressman Sharp of Ohio has introduced in the house. The bill provides for a commission of five members to inquire into the construction of railroad and other rolling stock, with a view of recommending changes in law which will provide for a greater degree of safety for passengers.

## ILLEGAL USE OF UNION LABEL

St. Louis, Mo., April 27.--Samuel Smith, proprietor of a tailor shop in this city has just been fined \$500 and costs for using illegally the union label of the Garment Workers' Union. The fine is the heaviest one ever imposed in St. Louis on a similar charge. It is stated by officials of the union that other prosecutions are to follow at once.

## GENERAL UNREST

London, April 27.--One sign of the general industrial unrest which prevails in this country is shown by the fact that there has been a large increase in the number of immigrants going abroad. The trade unions report a heavy increase in membership, but the increase would have been even greater had it not been for the fact that on account of low wages many workmen are leaving the country.

## LABOR PAPER TO BECOME DAILY

Washington, April 27.--Information comes from Wheeling, W. Va., that the Wheeling Majority, the local labor paper, is about to become a daily. It is stated that the trade unions in the Ohio valley are raising sufficient funds to carry on the project, and that a large number of subscribers have been secured.

## ASKING BETTER WAGE

London, April 27.--Several organizations in the London building trades are asking for advances in wages, and the demands are being considered by the Master Builders' Association.

## ENGLISH UNION OF WAITERS

London, April 27.--The National Union of Waiters, organized only recently, is making splendid progress. An organizing campaign is in full blast and the membership is growing.



## NEWS OF SHINGLE WEAVERS

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Seattle, Wash., April 27.--The strike of Shingle Weavers employed by a big shingle company at Clatskanie, Ore., has been settled and the company is now paying the union scale, having reinstated the strikers. This victory will materially assist the International Union to thoroughly organize the Columbia river district. The joint strike of the Shingle Weavers, Longshoremen and Sawmill Workers at Grays Harbor is still on, but it is effective and hopes are entertained that a satisfactory settlement will be reached in the near future.

## LEGIE'S WASHINGTON ADDRESS

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Washington, April 27.--Carl Legien, president of the Federation of Trade Unions of Germany, secretary of the World's Federation of Labor and member of the German Reichstag, spoke, in this city on Friday evening, April 19, to a large audience. He gave a comprehensive resume of the activities of trade unions in the German empire. President Gompers also delivered an address. Congressman W. B. Wilson, chairman of the committee on labor in the house of representatives, the coal miner, presided at the meeting.

## MORE DECEPTIVE ADVERTISEMENTS

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Detroit, Mich., April 27.--Alluring advertisements have been inserted in newspapers in various parts of the country offering special inducements for workmen to come to this city. The Detroit Federation of Labor has taken action to notify all workmen who are intending to come to Detroit that industrial conditions are of such a character as to make it highly improbable that work can be secured at the present time.

## SECURES FORTY-FOUR HOUR WEEK

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Philadelphia, Pa., April 27.--The local branch of the International Wood Carvers' Association has been successful in establishing the forty-four hour work week in all architectural and custom shops in this city. When the demand was made all firms agreed but one, and three members were out only three weeks, and the entire matter has now been settled and the carvers are all back to work.

## LONDON BUILDING TRADES

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London, April 27.--The Building Trades in this city are making an effective effort to more closely combine the organizations in the Building Trades, and meetings are being held at stated intervals, the result being that interest has been aroused to the point where there is more unity of action than ever before.

## UNION MAN ELECTED

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Kansas City, Mo., April 27.--Alderman Isaac Taylor, a union tailor has been re-elected to the city council by the largest vote polled by any candidate. Mr. Taylor has occupied this position for a number of years, and has been the consistent and faithful friend of organized labor during his incumbency in office.

### "GAG RULE" IN BILL

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Washington, April 27.--Congressman Prouty of Iowa is author of a bill which has been reported out of the District of Columbia committee. The first portion of the bill is excellent, but other portions are vicious. Section 1 provides that persons lobbying in congress for hire must disclose that fact and indicate by whom they are employed. This section is not objectionable and might produce good results, but the second section would, if adopted, enact into law a "gag rule" similar to the executive orders issued by Ex-President Roosevelt and President Taft relative to the activities of civil service employees. The section reads: "It shall be unlawful for employees of the government or of the District of Columbia, including policemen and firemen, to give promise or contribute any money or thing of value for lobbying through congress for their benefit, and any promise or contract to so contribute is hereby declared void as against public policy." This section is extremely vicious and ought to be and probably will be defeated. The idea that an employe, simply because he may be in the government service, should be deprived of his natural rights, is not a popular one, and no doubt Congressman Prouty will eventually be apprised of this fact by his constituent trade unionists of Des Moines, Iowa.

### TO ACQUIRE EXPRESS COMPANIES

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Washington, April 27.--The house committee on interstate commerce has reported favorably a bill providing that the government shall acquire by condemnation or otherwise, the express companies which are to be operated, if the bill becomes law, as an adjunct to the post-office department. This measure was originally fathered by Congressman Lewis, coal miner, of Maryland. The action of the committee, however, has been overshadowed by the adoption of the rule which makes this subject in order as an amendment to the postoffice appropriation bill in the house, now pending before that body. It provides for the establishment of a parcels post and postal express to be administered by the postmaster-general and operated through the present facilities of the express companies.

### DEMAND MINIMUM WAGE

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London, April 27.--A great demonstration was held in Trafalgar Square on Sunday, April 21, and resolutions were adopted demanding a minimum wage, fewer hours of labor, the abolition of the living-in system and to promote more effective organization of the workers in the distributive trades. The speakers included Mr. Philip Snowden, M. P., and Mr. George Lansbury, M. P., and others well known in the labor world. The meeting was held under the auspices of the London Federation of Shop Workers and Clerks, which is a newly organized body aiming at the more effective organization of workers in certain trades.

### UNITED SOCIETY OF SMITHS

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London, April 27.--The National United Society of Smiths and Hammermen has made remarkable progress during the past quarter. This organization is the result of the uniting of two organizations having jurisdiction in this particular industry in the iron trades.

## Legislative Committee Report.

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 18, 1912.

SAMUEL GOMPERS, President, American Federation of Labor.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER: Since last reporting, under date of January 18, many new bills of interest to labor have been introduced in Congress and some progress has been made upon measures in which the workers are interested; the following report having reference to the most important subjects:

**Anti-trust and Injunction Limitation Measures.**—The House Committee on Judiciary gave extended hearings to the representatives of labor and a variety of opponents, after which the bill, H. R. 11032, was referred to a sub-committee. The sub-committee made its final report to the full committee on April 3, 1912, at which time the sub-committee reported a bill of a composite character, which contained amendments to the present procedure of the issuance of injunctions and made definite the provisions for the payment of damages by parties wrongfully enjoined; it being generally understood that the foregoing provisions dealt distinctly with the legitimate use of the injunctive power to conserve property rights by the equity courts. The balance of the measure recommended by the sub-committee is in harmony with such sections of the bill advocated and urged by labor and would secure personal rights from judicial interference by equity power. It also contains a provision making it necessary for the courts to serve injunctions on persons affected and not permitting the courts to abuse the injunctive writ as heretofore, by making them apply to any one person or everybody under a sweeping generalization.

The sub-committee struck from the bill advocated by labor the provision defining "conspiracy," and the provision exempting labor and associations not for profit from the provisions of the Anti-Trust act. This composite bill was agreed to on April 3 by a vote of 15 to 6. Up to the writing of this report the Judiciary Committee has not yet reported the measure to the House.

On April 11 Senator Bacon of Georgia introduced S. 6206, which has been referred to the Senate Committee on Education and Labor, and Representative Bartlett of Georgia introduced H. R. 23489, which was referred to the House Committee on Labor. These bills are identical. They cover every material contention made by labor for absolute relief from the Anti-Trust act, and from interference by the injunctive writ with personal relations of employers and employees. Much interest is manifested in these bills by Members of Congress, and in view of the fact that they are referred to the Committees on Labor, the possibility is brighter for obtaining prompt, affirmative action than would be if these propositions were before the Committees on Judiciary. On April 17 the House Committee on Labor agreed to report the Bartlett Bill favorably to the House with the recommendation that it do pass.

**Contempt Bill.**—The House Committee on Judiciary agreed on April 3 to report on the Clayton Contempt Bill, H. R. 23591, which bill makes it possible to obtain a trial by jury in cases coming before a court under a charge of indirect contempt.

**Convict Labor.**—On March 4, 1912, the House of Representatives passed the Boomer Bill, H. R. 5601, by practically an unanimous vote, no division being taken. This measure is now before the Senate Committee on Judiciary. No action has yet been taken by that committee. This bill when enacted into law will authorize the States which have or may enact legislation to protect its citizens from the evil effects of convict labor, to prohibit the importation and sale of the product of

convict labor of other States, and because such other States would be required to sell or consume the product of their own convicts within their own boundaries, humane and practical legislation would necessarily follow in such States.

**Children's Bureau Bill.**—The bill, S. 252, passed the Senate January 31, 1912, by a vote of 54 for to 20 against and 17 "not voting." It passed the House April 2, 1912, by a vote of 178 for to 17 against, 7 answering "present," and 190 "not voting." It has been approved by the President.

**Civil Service Employees.**—The Lloyd bill, H. R. 5970, which has been so strongly urged, is still before the House Committee on Reform in the Civil Service. The La Follette bill, S. 1162, is also still in the hands of the Senate Committee on Civil Service. No definite action has yet been taken on these bills by either committee. The House Committee on Post-office and Post roads has, however, included all the essentials of these bills in the Appropriation Bill reported March 4, 1912, for the Post-office Department (H. R. 21279), and may be found in section 6 thereof. This bill is now before the House in Committee of the Whole, and it is confidently expected that this provision will be acceptable to the House and passed.

Meanwhile the President, on April 8, issued an Executive Order, abrogating the "gag" rule issued by former President Roosevelt, January 31, 1902, and amended by him, January 25, 1906, and further extended by President Taft, November 26, 1909. The new order issued by the President permits officers or employees in the Civil Service to address communications to the Congress or any member thereof, providing it is transmitted through the heads of the respective departments. It is obligatory upon such officials to forward such petitions or communications to the Congress without delay, with such comment as they may deem requisite. Evidently the President has seen a great light, but his modified order falls far short of restoring to the Civil Service employees of the Government the natural and political rights which the American Federation of Labor is striving to obtain for such employees. Organized labor and all liberty-loving citizens will continue their efforts to restore full citizenship rights to all government employees.

**Department of Labor.**—The bill H. R. 22913, by Mr. Sulzer of New York, has been introduced to take the place of his original bill, H. R. No. 15, providing for a Department of Labor with a Secretary at its head, who shall be a member of the President's Cabinet. The Committee on Labor, to which the new bill was referred, agreed on April 2 to report it favorably to the House. This report will be formally made in a few days, and as most of the representatives interviewed on this subject appear to regard it favorably, early enactment of the measure is confidently expected.

**Eight Hours.**—The Eight-Hour bill, H. R. 9601, which passed the House December 14, 1911, was held up in the Senate Committee on Education and Labor until the patience of that committee was exhausted by repetition of statements and so-called arguments by attorneys and special pleaders of the National Association of Manufacturers; the Founders' Association; the National Metal Trades' Association, and other elements associated with "big business." On April 5 the committee decided without a dissenting vote, to report the bill favorably to the Senate as it passed the House and without amendment. Senator Borah, Chairman of the committee, promptly wrote the report for the committee (known as Senate report No. 601), and submitted it to the Senate April 11, 1912. The bill is now upon the Senate Calendar and can be called up at any time under the rules.

**Eight Hour Provision in Fortification Bill.**—While this measure was before the committees for argument and consideration, the Legislative Committees of the American Federation of Labor and the Metal Trades organizations obtained an eight-hour amendment to the Fortifications Appropriation bill, in the sections providing for the manufacture of ordnance and powder. When that measure passed the House, February 16, 1912, this eight hour provision was kept intact in the bill, and when the bill passed the Senate, on March 20, the eight hour provisions were not changed.

**Eight Hours for Post-Office Clerks.**—The Reilly Eight-Hour bill for Post-office clerks and letter carriers was unanimously reported out of committee and included in the appropriation bill for the Post-office Department, H. R. 21279, reported out of committee March 4, 1912, and may be found in section 5. This appropriation bill is now before the House in Committee of the Whole, and the prospects look very favorable to the enactment of a strict eight-hour provision for Post office clerks and letter carriers.

**Employers' Liability and Workmen's Compensation.**—The Federal Commission which has had this subject under consideration during the past year reported its findings to the President on February 20, 1912, and at the same time reported a final draft of the bill. Mr. Sutherland, Chairman of the Commission, introduced bill S. 5382 in the Senate, and Mr. Brantley, a member of the Commission, introduced H. R. 20487 in the House; both of which were referred to the appropriate committees on the Judiciary. The Senate Committee on Judiciary made a favorable report with some amendments, on April 3, 1912, since which time the bill has been under discussion on several occasions. Prospects look favorable for the passage of this measure during this session of Congress.

The Government Employees' Compensation for Injuries Act, approved May, 1908, which was amended by the House December 6, 1911, by extending its provisions to the employees in the new Bureau of Mines, was amended by the Senate, agreed to in conference, reported out and accepted by the House and Senate on March 5, 1912, signed by the President March 12, 1912, and is now law.

The Howland bill, H. R. 20995, which contains the full scope of the original bill introduced at the instance of and urged by the American Federation of Labor so as to cover all employees of the Federal Government without regard to hazard of occupation, has incorporated with it the scale of benefits recommended by the Federal Commission in its bill of February 20, and which applies to employees of common carriers by railroads engaged in interstate or foreign commerce. The House Committee on Judiciary ordered the Howland bill favorably reported out of committee on April 11. This is a very fortunate circumstance, and will be instrumental in obtaining a uniform basis of benefits for Government employees and for employees of common carriers, and while it may be said that the scale of benefits are, comparatively speaking, small, yet the fact remains that this scale is greater than that provided by any of the State laws or by any of the laws in vogue in foreign countries, and if it is found that the scale of benefits are too low, they can be increased at a future date by amendment to the act.

**Immigration.**—The House Committee on Immigration made a favorable report on the "illiteracy test" bill, H. R. 22527, April 16. The opposition to this bill does not appear to be as vigorous as in former Congresses. Mr. Burnett, Chairman of the House Committee, feels quite confident that the bill will pass the House without serious objection.

**Immigration—Chinese Exclusion.**—The bill, S. 3175, introduced in the Senate for the alleged purpose of codifying all the immigration laws, was submitted to attorneys of the American Federation of Labor, who concluded that if it was enacted in

the form in which it was before the Senate the right of Chinese to come to the United States would be absolutely unrestricted. In consequence of this serious question (Chinese immigration), coming again before the people, it was deemed wise to circulate all of the organizations on the Pacific Coast and inter-mountain States, urging them to oppose the measure. As a result of these activities an amendment aiming to cover this defect was agreed to in the Senate (on April 15), and is as follows:

"Chinese persons or persons of Chinese descent, whether subjects of China or subjects or citizens of any other country foreign to the United States; persons who are not eligible to become citizens of the United States by naturalization unless otherwise excluded by existing agreements as to passports or by treaties, conventions, or agreements that may hereafter be entered into."

**Industrial Education.**—The Vocational and Industrial Education bill, S. 3, by Mr. Page of Vermont, was favorably reported out of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, February 26, 1912. Representative Wilson of Pennsylvania reintroduced his bill to conform to the changes made in S. No. 3, its new number being H. R. 21490. Special hearings will be held by the House Committee on Agriculture on this bill, April 23. Favorable action is expected by the House Committee similar to that of the Senate Committee.

**Phosphorus Matches.**—The bill H. R. 20842, introduced for the purpose of preventing the disease known as "phossy jaw," passed the House of Representatives March 28, 1912, by a vote of 163 for, 31 against, 7 answering "present," and 190 "not voting." The bill was brought up in the Senate on April 3, and after some discussion passed without amendment and without division. The bill is now law, thanks to the efforts of the humanitarian impulses of the labor organizations and the women.

**Porto Rico.**—The bill H. R. 20048, providing for citizenship for the people of Porto Rico, was passed by the House on March 4, 1912, and is now before the Senate Committee on Pacific Islands and Porto Rico. The sentiment of the members of this committee seems to be favorably disposed toward the bill, but no positive action up to this time has been taken by it.

**Public Health.**—The Bill S. 1, introduced by Senator Owen for the purpose of safeguarding the health of the people through the administrative powers of a Federal Bureau of Health, was favorably reported to the Senate on April 13 with a recommendation that the bill pass. The original measure has been redrafted and the objectionable medical provisions removed.

**Second Class Mail Matter.**—Bill H. R. 3972 (known as the Dadds bill), which provides that publications by labor and fraternal organizations shall receive the same consideration as commercial and other business publications, was referred to the House Committee on Post office and Post-roads, and in turn was referred to a sub committee of the Committee on Post office and Post-roads. We have received assurance from the Chairman of the sub-committee, Representative Wilson of New York, that this measure will receive early consideration.

It will materially aid the officers of the American Federation of Labor and the undersigned if all local organizations and members will promptly urge their Representatives and Senators to pass the Anti-Trust, the Injunction Limitation, the Eight-Hour, the Convict Labor, the Second Class Mail, and the Workmen's Compensation measures during the present session of Congress.

Respectfully submitted,

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Legislative Committee, A. F. of L.